Military Uniforms- Then and Now

Military Uniforms have evolved since the Indian and Revolutionary Wars into a variety of sophisticated clothing for modern armed forces. Typically the clothing worn now is based upon the theater of action and the climate where the armed forces operate. The climate varies from the frozen artic in Alaska to the deserts of the US Southwest to the jungles of the South Pacific. Each climate dictates how the uniform is worn. However, Dress Uniforms for formal activities like parades and military functions are based upon the history of the particular branch of the service (i.e. Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard). These also have evolved over the years from heavy woolen coats and breeches to more modern fabrics to better serve the service branch. All require the usual spit and polish to make the military person look their best.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uniforms_of_the_United_States_Armed_Forces

We'll take a look of this evolution and how uniforms have changed. Sometimes for the better and sometimes not. The links provided here include re-enactment web sites.

https://www.businessinsider.com/heres-how-us-army-uniforms-have-changed-since-1776

https://www.military.com/army/uniforms.html

https://www.ranker.com/list/evolution-of-american-military-uniforms-throughout-history/daveesons

Colonial Uniforms 1600-1770

Typically during the Colonial Period, Militias more than likely took up arms when necessary. Although Great Britain had a standing army, so did France and Spain in the territories they had declared theirs. Still, local action against marauding Native American tribes sprang up time to time and militias had to be created within the local scope of the action. Uniforms might consist of the individual's clothing to uniforms purchased by the local community or wealthy resident. It was expensive to raise an army and equipe them. Colonial males between the ages of 16 and 60 were expected to maintain a rifle with powder and shot to be called when needed.

Revolutionary Uniforms 1775-1784

The revolutionary war saw the adoption of a similar uniform as the British except the colors were blue on white to help distinquish the Colonial Army from the British.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Continental_Army#Rank_insignia

https://historyofmassachusetts.org/uniforms-revolutionary-war-soldiers/

US Uniforms 1800-1860

Through most of the the early nineteenth century, U.S. military uniforms conformed to the European style of military dress. Uniforms would evolve as fashion dictated. Uniforms were worn for both battle and dress.

War of 1812 Rank: https://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/opac/1812ranks.htm

Naval Rank: https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/heritage/uniforms-and-personal-equipment/uniforms-1812-1815.html

https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&sxsrf=ACYBGNTiL94641er85RDvccHevWWaWbb-w:1579461063055&q=us+navy+uniforms+war+of+1812&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjC_OX8rpDnAhWOCjQIHRKPC98Q1QIoAHoECAsQAQ&biw=1224&bih=648

Civil War 1861-1865

The War between the States (also known as the Civil War) would pit the North against the Southern States. The Union army would adopt the blue color while the Southern army was mostly grey.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uniform_of_the_Union_Army

https://www.google.com/search?sxsrf=ACYBGNTa7czeUveMV6Cb8BggFnR_651v2w:1579461902761&q=Confederate+Rank&tbm=isch&source=univ&client=firefox-b-1-d&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjP0ZmNspDnAhUcJTQIHftEA6MQsAR6BAgKEAE&biw=1224&bih=648

Uniforms 1865-1890

With the end of the Civil War, the color blue would mostly be prominate throughout the later part of the 19th Century. The US Army would be mostly confined to fighting the tribes of the western United States. The U.S. Navy uniforms would continue their evolution from a sailing ships to iron clads.

In the Albuquerque Library: https://eds.a.ebscohost.com/eds/detail/detail?vid=1&sid=e5e7bc09-b673-446b-b5f4-e95775b7ced8%40sessionmgr4007&bdata=JkF1dGhUeXBlPWlwLGNwaWQmY3VzdGlkPXM0MTIwNjM1JnNpdGU9ZWRzLWxpdmU%3d#AN=abc.b1161819&db=cat06235a

https://www.history.navy.mil/research/library/online-reading-room/title-list-alphabetically/u/uniforms-usnavy.html#hist

Spanish-American War

The United States military was not prepared when war was declared against Spain. The Army consisted mostly of units that had fought against the western Native Americans. To put it mildly, the Army was not ready to fight against a major power. Units were hastely drawn from State militias as recruitment began. Only the US Navy was in any shape for engagements in both the Atlantic and the Pacific. Uniforms of the day were not designed for fighting in hot humid conditions found in Cuba and the Phillipines. Uniforms were not suited for tropical environments and the soldiers suffered for it.

http://www.ushist.com/spanish-american-war_uniforms_us_saw.shtml

https://www.quartermastershop.com/1872%20and%20on%20US%20Officer/span_am_officer_menu.html

http://www.spanamwar.com/Americanuniforms.htm

World War 1

President Wilson had successfully kept the United States out of war in Europe for several years. Sentiment at the time was it was not our war. Over time with Germany declaring unrestricted submarine warfare against all merchant ships bound for Europe, President Wilson would not be able to keep the United States from being drawn into the war. Great Britain and France were desparate for the U.S. to join their side as casualities were wearing down armies on both sides. The sinking of the Lusitania with 128 American deaths by a German U-Boat would be one of the justifications of going to war against Germany. Uniforms would adjust to the conditions of trench warefare and European weather.

https://www.historyhit.com/uniforms-of-world-war-one-the-clothes-that-made-the-men/

http://www.history-of-american-wars.com/world-war-1-uniforms.html

World War 2

By the early 1940s, President Roosevelt was resolved to the fact the United States would be engaged in another war. The Navy had been building warships and with the landlease program, providing aid to Great Britain as Germany consolidated its hold on mainland Europe. The United State was emerging as a global power with territories in the Pacific and the Carribean. The U.S. had a significant Army force and Naval presence in the Phillipines. The Navy was providing escorts for shipping bound for Great Britain. December 7th would thrust the United States into a two front war with the Axis Powers in the Pacific and Atlantic.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Army_uniforms_in_World_War_II

http://www.usww2uniforms.com/

Korea

As the following article says, Olive Green was the basic work uniform from 1952 till 1989. Korea would subject military units to freezing cold and hot summer conditions. When the U.S. entered the Korean War, the Army was ill prepared for the winter conditions soon to be imposed on them.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OG-107

http://quanonline.com/military/military_reference/american/korean_uniforms/korea_uniform.html

https://www.amazon.com/U-S-Army-Uniforms-Korean-War/dp/0811729524

Vietnam

U.S. Military Uniforms in Vietnam would change because the hot and humid conditions. Troops would be subjected to heavy monsoon rains, wet field conditions, and hot humid weather. The Uniforms up to that time were still guided by Korea.

http://www.vietnamgear.com/equipment.aspx

https://www.mooremilitaria.com/uniform-and-equipment-reference.html

Present

Modern Military Uniforms have evolved for the battle conditions the military might engage. The United States has a variety of climates from the hot humid south to the frozen tundra of Alaska to the arid southwest. Uniforms have adapted to meet the needs of modern combat.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Army_Combat_Uniform

https://www.military.com/join-armed-forces/military-uniforms/uniform-and-insignia-guide.html